SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT

The amendment to claims 17 and 21 are supported by claim 29 and by the specification, page 11, line 10. The amendment to claims 30 and 31 are supported by the specification, page 9, lines 2-4. Claims 17, 21-23, 25-27, 30-31 and 33-34 are now pending. No new matter has been added.

Attached herewith is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by this amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

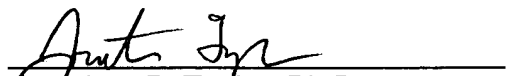
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Kam for indicating that claims 29 and 33 are free of the prior art and for pointing out the amendments necessary to bring these claims into allowance. Applicants would further like to point out to Examiner Kam that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed in this case on October 30, 2001.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 has been obviated by appropriate amendment. Claim 29 has been incorporated into claims 17 and 21. The term "biologically active agent" has thus been replaced with the term "polypeptide." The Markush listing of the polypeptide now also includes "an antibody." Claims 30 and 31 have been clarified.

Applicants respectfully request that the examiner contact the undersigned in order to expedite any formal matters upon indication of allowable subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

17. (Twice Amended) An injectable formulation, comprising:

(a) particles comprising a biocompatible polymeric matrix, the matrix comprising a poly(lactide-co-glycolide);

(b) a biologically active polypeptide dispersed within the matrix; and

(c) an injection vehicle comprising hyaluronic acid;

wherein the polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a growth hormone, a hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), an anti-vascular endothelial growth factor Fab (anti-VEGF Fab), a glucagon-like peptide I (GLP-I), a nerve growth factor, an insulin-like growth factor, and an antibody.

21. (Amended) An injectable formulation, comprising:

(a) hyaluronic acid; and

(b) particles, comprising:

(i) a [biologically active agent] polypeptide selected from the group consisting of a growth hormone, a hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), an anti-vascular endothelial growth factor Fab (anti-VEGF Fab), a glucagon-like peptide I (GLP-I), a nerve growth factor, an insulin-like growth factor, and an antibody; and

(ii) a biocompatible polymeric matrix.

30. (Amended) The injectable formulation of claim 21, wherein the concentration of the [polymeric matrix comprising the biologically active agent] particles is about 1 mg/mL to about 500 mg/mL of formulation.

31. (Amended) The injectable formulation of claim 21, wherein the concentration of the [polymeric matrix comprising the biologically active agent] particles is about 1 mg/mL to about 300 mg/mL of formulation.